Feb. 5, 1952

THE VOICE OF GOD'S SILENCE.

Job 4:THERE WAS SILENCE AND I HEARD A VOICE,SAYING
Eliphaz, the Temanite spealing to Job.

Intro. The all-but-silent New Year's Eve. Had man kept still the New Year would have come in perfect silence. Time moves silently. This led me to think of the things that happen in absolute silence, and a bit of reflection led me to conclude that the greatest things in life are silent.

The silences of home, of business and society, of politics and nations, of education and religion are by far the greatest of their qualities. And for this reason life is so baffling, creation such a mystyy. However much noise we may make we are subtly conscious of passing thru life wrapt in a great silent mystery, the silence of Eternity. Perhaps this is why Jesus never wearied urging us to have fáth. He saw there was no othe way. Only the ear of Faith can penetrate the silence of Eternity with which we are ever surrounded.

There are the silences of Nature.
Sunrise and sunset. In the high mts.
The silences of the human soul varied and far-reaching.
The deepest joys are not the hilarious kind.
Words cannot describe them.
Frightened stiff. Surprised dumbfonded.
The deppest experiences of life are the earless and speechless ones.

God's thots so high above our thots that we cannot comprehend them; His ways so utterly beyond our ways that they are mystery to us.
Yet God understands His own thots and ways.
No one can hear the watch tick like the maker of the watch can.
The builder of the automobile knows his car as noone else can. And so the Maker and Builder of this Universe can hear what our ears cannot, and He can see what our eyes fail to see.
The electro-magnetic waves over the radio cannot be heard by our ears and so we have to transform them into such lengths and velocities as to make them audible to us. Hence, our radio instruments. Faith is the instrument of the soul

2. which brings the thots of God and the ways of God within range of our minds and experience. And so Jesus said over and over again, Fear not, only believe."

Let us consider some more silences.

1. The silence of harmony.
When an engine is working perfectly in allits parts, it runs smoothly and silently.
True friendships run along the same way.
Sympathy works the same way. The parable of the Good Samaritan. The difference between the Pharisee and Priest on the the one hand and the Good Samaritan n the other was a silent one. The silent virtue of compassion in the heart of the Samaritan was the difference.
The big thing about this parable, not the act of kindness itself, but the source of it-lacking in those who should have had it, and found in one least expected to have it.
Likewise, the real essence of our Xty is not our creeds or beliefs, it is not our reading of the Bible or our prayers, but that hidden life, that silent dynamic, that secret incarnation of God in our very souls: it is the Silence of Eternity dwelling in every Christ-directed life.

2. The silence of suffering.
In our deepest sorrows, our friends cannot comfort. But even a stranger can who, putting his hand gently upon us says, "My heart bleeds for you, for I know by experience the pangs that rend your soul. I know exact,y what you are passing thru. God pity and comforty you."

3. Again consider the silence of character.
Lying goes deeper than a false toungue: and stealig further than taking hands.
A man is'nt a thief because he steals, or a liar because he tells an untruth. A man tells an untruth because he has a lying character, and a man steals because he has a dishonest character.
The source of a man's conduct is not found in his acts but in his personal character.
~~From this conception we can the better understand the silence of sin and virtue.~~

3. Just as all living things grow silently, so do our characters. Wrong motives and principles take possession of us and grow silently until they suddenly break forth to ruin us. Right motives and principles are planted within us and they grow silently, until when the great temptations of life come, they suddenly stand forth to defend us.

A single secret sin often drives men to suicide or insanity.

And so the process goes on. The Eternal is ever becoming the temporal: the ideal ever becoming the real: the potential ever becoming the actual; the mysterious ever becoming the friend of man; the silence of Eternity ever revealing the Goodness of God.

1. A couple came before me ~~at midnight New Years Eve to be married~~ to be married. What was the great event enacted there? The marriage ceremony? No. The vows pledged? No. The statutes which make the two man and wife? No. And besides the reading and pronouncements of these was anything else audible? no. Was anything else seen? no. Then what had taken place that ~~it did not~~ makes a marriage such a great event? It was the Silence of Eternity- the great love-hand of God welding together two hearts as one. "Whom God hath joined tohether let no man put asunder."

2. And it is the same with the birth of a child. How do you account for that unspeakable joy which comes to the parents? The little cry? No. The little form? No. It is the silence of Eternity- the great Father of us all playing on the parental love strings. There in the holy-of-holies of your being God links your soul and your little one with a tie that not all the force of time or eternity can break.

Yes, the silence of Eternity is gradually being broken and we are beginning to realize that the laws and principles of time are eternal.

God is shouting to us with 10,000 voices. He has been thundering His secrets down the ages, but the sluggish, sinful and ignorant eyes and ears of ours have not been able to see or hear.

The invisible witness at the marriage the other night. Unseen and yet seeing all; Unheard and yet hearing all.

Oh, let us realize that in the silences of our daily lives God is walking with us, tho we do not discern his footsteps. God is talking with us tho our vulgar ears do not hear what He is saying. God is working among us, tho our crude sight cannot discern Him in our midst.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. /Seek/and/ye/shall/find, Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

We marvel at the radio invention, the power to tune in and listen to voices and instruments in the distance but the most marvelous tuning-in of all is the soul's tuning in to catch from the eternal silences the voice of God.

The surest and simplest and most effective tuning-in of the soul is that consecration to Christ which opens to us the very heart of God and the very purpose and plan of the Almighty concerning us.

Prelude

Hymn 12

Prayer

Jr. Choir

Scripture Lesson (28)

Solo- Mr. Thom

Offertory

Ad. Choir

Sermon

Hymn 275

Benediction

Response

Postlude

Session Meeting
7.30 Monday
Prayer 8:00 PM

Next Sunday
Scout Sunday
Auburn attendance

Membership Group
Feb 10th.